SELECTIONS

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA. Received up to 20th December, 1881.

POLITICAL.

THE Oudh Akhbar of the 20th December says that it ap-

Circulation,

The deportation of some Afghan sirdars from Kandahar to India by the Amir Abdul Rahman Khan.

pears from a telegram dated Killa Abdulla, the 18th December, that the anger of the Amir Abdul Rahman Khan has not yet been soothed, and that

he is still harassing the Kandaharis. They have been exposed to many misfortunes for a long time and have lost all their property. Perhaps the Amir does not like to allow them to live in Kandahar even in their present miserable condition. Some of the Kandahar sirdars fled with Aiyub, some have been seized and taken by the Amir to Kabul, and the rest have now been deported by him to India. Apparently he has expelled all sirdars from Kandahar lest any of them should raise his hand against him. But, at the same time, it should be observed that now there remains no sirdar of local influence in the province who could assist the Amir in an emergency. The British Government does not oppress even a hostile barbarous people in this way, and does not banish them for C their country; why is the Amir doing all these things in position to our policy? The telegram shows that 110 refue

are on their way from Kandahar to India, and it is believed that the Government will send them to Karrachi. We have already to support a number of Afghan sirdars who have been deported to India. Now that peace has been restored in Kabul, we might send those sirdars back to Afghanistan. On the contrary, we are going to be burdened with more Afghan refugees. In this way the whole population of Afghanistan might be gradually thrown on our hands. The Government should take this into consideration and prevent the Amir from deporting any more Afghans.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 80 copies.

The Akhbar-i-Hind (Lucknow) of the 15th December The re-imposition of the states that the rumour about the revival of the income-tax is at present very prevalent. This rumour has frightened the whole native community. It is difficult to say whether the rumour is correct or false. A deputation, headed by Mr. Lord, from the mill-owners of Lancashire, lately waited on Lord Hartington and urged on him the entire abolition of the cotton import The mill-owners of Lancashire ask for the abolition of the duties, not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of the natives! They say that the abolition of the duties would enable the natives to clothe themselves more cheaply. man who has the least sense in him will easily see that they are prompted by no such philanthropy, but by selfish motives. Their secret object is to crush the cotton industry of India and to drain the country of its wealth. Lord Hartington gave a favourable reply to the deputation, in utter disregard of the interests of the natives. He might have asked Major Baring to abolish the duties in question in accordance with the wishes of the cotton-lords of Manchester, and Major Baring might have replied that if the duties were repealed, an income-tax would have to be levied. Probably this correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Government of India has led to the rumour about the revival of this tax. When this tax was first introduced,

Sir John Inglis very strongly denounced it. The Government was much displeased with him, and called for an explanation. Fortunately he was able to prove every statement he had made, otherwise he might have been dismissed from the public service. When Lord Northbrook, the late Viceroy, was fully convinced of the unsuitability of this tax to this country, he abolished it. Sir John Strachey imposed the license-tax in order to repeal a portion of the cotton duty. If the duty is entirely abolished, there is no doubt that an incometax would have to be imposed to recoup the loss of revenue. But the Government should remember that the levy of the income-tax would greatly increase the sufferings of the people, who are already in great distress. The native underlings who would be entrusted with the duty of assessing and collcting the tax would rob the people to their heart's content. More money would go into their pockets than into the Government treasury. The levy of the income-tax would paralyze all trades and industries. The Government wishes to abolish the cotton import duties and to levy an incometax for the benefit of the natives. But we declare on behalf of our countrymen that they desire that not only the duties should not be entirely abolished, but that the portion which has already been abolished should be re-imposed. They prefer to be badly clothed than to starve. It appears from telegrams lately received from London that the English Press is opposed to the re-imposition of the income-tax. We hope that Lord Ripon will not allow such a calamity to befal the natives.

The Mirat-al-Hind (Lucknow) for November (received on the 14th December) comments on the Panjab University. the controversy that is going on in the Panjab on the subject of the educational system of the Panjab University, and arrives at the conclusion that both English and Vernacular should be compulsory subjects of study at the university. English should be made compulsory, because it is the language of the rulers, and because

Circulation, 245 copies.

it is the only means open to us by which we can have access to European science and art. The vernacular should be also made compulsory, because this would lead to the development and improvement of the vernacular. No nation can make any progress without improving its own language and literature. True, there are at present no professors who could teach Western science both in English and vernacular, nor are there treatises in vernacular embodying the discoveries made in science by Europeans. But both these difficulties would be got rid of in time. Rewards should be offered to encourage the translation of good scientific treatises from English into the vernacular. Moreover, each candidate for the B.A. or the M.A. degree should be required to translate at least one good English book into the vernacular. Those candidates whose translations are good should receive khilats and rewards. The translations should be made into that form of the vernacular called the Urdu, in which the Hon'ble Saiyid Ahmad Khan, Raja Shiva Prasad, and Pandit Dayanand Saraswati write, which is free from an admixture of big Persian and Arabic words, and which is intelligible in almost every part of the country.

Circulation, 517 copies.

The Rahbar-i-Hind of the 19th December, referring to a Calcutta telegram of the 8th idem The repeal of the Vernacular Press Act. about the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act, expresses satisfaction at its repeal. It has been admitted by Government that the existing provisions in the Indian Penal Code affecting seditious publications are sufficient, and consequently no additions or alterations are to be made in those provisions. This shows that the Press Act was quite unnecessary. It has practically remained a dead letter since its enactment. It was as it were a child of Lord Lytton's Government which was born ill, which did not enjoy good health for a single day, and which died a premature death. It was always a source of anxiety to the native editors, but not the slightest good has accrued from it. Similarly, the late war which Lord Lytton's Government unnecessarily declared against Afghanistan involved an immense loss in men and money, but no advantage has been derived. from it. These two measures of the late Government should serve as a warning to the world. They show that even wise men sometimes commit great blunders. Act IX. of 1878 was a very bad piece of legislation. It not only imposed restrictions upon the liberty of the vernacular press, but recognised an invidious distinction between the Vernacular and the English Press. We are very thankful to Lord Ripon for its abolition. We hope that the natives from different provinces will send addresses to him expressing their gratitude to him. The native press expresses the sentiments and feelings of the natives, and it is well known that the natives are a very loyal people. have some grievances, but they are generally satisfied with British rule. If any native paper makes an attack on the Government through ignorance, no one would be justified in imagining that the whole native press, or, in other words, the whole native population, is disaffected towards the Government. When any native editor habitually preaches sedition, he should be prosecuted under the provisions of the Indian Penal Just as we are jealous of the liberty of the press, we wish that any member of the press who abuses his liberty should be punished. We are disposed to think that no native editor will ever be found guilty of spreading sedition. But we have observed with deep regret that, sometimes, some of our native contemporaries indulge in foul language. They should refrain from this in order that they may not be considered unworthy of the privilege which the Government has bestowed upon them.

The Koh-i-Núr (Lahore) of the 17th December publishes

The industrial exhibitation a vernacular translation of the memotion to be held at Lahore. randum which has been written by

Mr. B. H. Baden Powell, Officiating Commissioner of Umballa, and published by the Pánj ab Government as a supplement to the Government Gasette, on the industrial exhibition

Circulation, 490 copies. which is to be held on the 24th instant at Lahore. In its two previous issues the New expatiated on the advantages that result from such exhibitions.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANBOUS.

Circulation 517 copies.

The Rahbar-i-Hind of the 15th December says that the number of deaths at Amritsar during Sickness at Amritsar. September, October, and November last amounted to 12,711. The epidemic broke out in July last, and therefore at least fifteen thousand men must have died since its outbreak to the present day. The largest number of deaths that occurred on any day in the first week of December was 64 and the lowest 51. This shows that the daily average of deaths is still over 50, and that the disease has not yet abated. It is said that the relief rendered by the municipal committee of Amritsar to the sufferers is at present confined to the distribution of soup. Probably this form of relief has been adopted at the instance of the commission which has been appointed to enquire into the causes of the visitation and to suggest necessary sanitary reforms. The soup will undoubtedly do some good to those who have been emaciated by prolonged illness. But nothing could be more foolish than to imagine that the distribution of soup would check the epidemic. opinion the prevalence of sickness at Amritsar is chiefly due to two causes: viz., bad water and want of good sanitary arrangements. The water in the wells has become bad and is injurious to health. It appears from a letter lately received from Amritsar that the municipal committee has cleaned only some wells. The sanitary arrangements are not satisfactory. The principal streets are well looked after, but the lanes are entirely neglected. There are tanks and holes both in and outside the town which are filled with stagnant water. The Rahbar makes the following proposals for the consideration of the municipal committee :- (1) Waterworks should be constructed at Amritsar; (2) all tanks and holes should be filled up with earth; (3) measures should be taken to prevent water from accumulating in the fields which are situated on low ground within or without the town; (4) the cultivation of those crops which spoil the air should be prohibited within a reasonable distance of the town walls; (5) sanitation should be improved; all the streets and lanes should be always kept clean; (6) the people should be advised to keep their houses clean and not to wear dirty clothes.

Circulation, 325 copies.

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The Ghazipur correspondent of the Nasim-i-Agra of the 7th December (received on the 14th idem), The Muharram at Gházipur. says that on the 26th November last the Hindus at Ghazipur paraded a religious procession as When the procession reached the square near the old fort, some wicked Muhammadan sellers of herbs stood in its way and would not allow it to pass owing to the Muharram. Some of them went round the town and solemnly called upon their co-religionists to sacrifice their lives on behalf of their In a short time a riotous growd of about three thousand Musalmans assembled on the spot. Some Musalman raises and Government servants also joined them. When the Court Inspector of Police and the Sub-Inspector saw that the Musalmans were ready to create a riot, they sent word to Mr. Clarke, Deputy Collector. He at once went to the place and endeavoured to induce them to let the procession pass. But they were not amenable to reason. He then ordered the procession to proceed, himself accompanied it, and told the Musalmans to do what they pleased. This brought them to their senses, and they returned to their homes. The police officers acted very wisely in giving timely notice to the Deputy Collector, and deserve to be rewarded.

The Akhbar-i-Am of the 14th December states that it has been heard that the Council of Regentry at cy at Patiala has written to the Panjáb Patiala.

Government asking for permission

Circulation, 1,700 copies. has charged them with creating disturbances; their only fault is the they are not subservient to the Council. It is also rumoured that the Council has forwarded to the Panjáb Government some forged letters, alleged to have been written by the editor of this paper, along with its application for sanction for the dismissal of the officers in question, as a proof of their misconduct. We hope the rumour is false. If the Council has really done this, the Government should carefully examine the letters and satisfy itself that they are not forgeries before sanctioning the dismissal of the officers.

The same paper, in another article, complains that a packet containing some copies of the Akhbár-i-Am of the 3rd September last, addressed to its agent at Patiala, was tampered with and three copies were taken from the packet, and that another packet containing some copies of the paper of the 30th November last was not delivered at all. The editor charges the Council of Regency at Patiala with having done these things.

The Aftab-i-Hind (Jallandhur) of the 17th December refers to the attacks made by the The Akhbar-i-Am. Akhbár-i-Ám of Lahore on Dr. Leitner, to an article* headed "The Viceroy and Simla" (which appeared in the Akhbar-i-Am of the 20th August, and in which the Viceroys were represented as enjoying themselves for the greater part of the year at Simla, and uselessly squandering the Indian revenues; the Financial Ministers as sucking the life-blood of the people by the levy of taxes; and the Legal Members as harassing and ruining the people by constantly passing new laws), to the attacks made on the Council of Regency at Patiala, and to the foul and abusive terms used in regard to the editor of the Delhi Punch, and urges that the Government should take some action against the editor of the Akhbar-i-Am.

^{*}The Akhbar-i-Am republished the article from the Behar Bandhu of Bankipur and gave the name of the latter paper at the end of the article.

The Khair Khwah-i-Alam (Delhi) of the 8th December The same. (received on the 14th idem) states that the Council of Regency at Patiala is conducting the administration in a very satisfactory manner and takes the Akhbar-i-Am to task for making unjust attacks on it.

Circulation,

The Delhi Punch (Lahore) of the 12th December publishes Circulation a picture in which the articles of the The same. Akhbar-i-Am are represented as serpents issuing from the mouth of the editor of that paper and biting the Government and the people.

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